



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.1 percent for March 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was one-tenth of a percentage point above the February 2001 rate of 3.0 percent, but was down three-tenths of a percentage point from March 2000. There was an increase in the number of employed individuals, from 233,500 to 235,700, and in increase in the number of unemployed individuals, from 7,200 to 7,600. The net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* was 2,600 from February 2001 to March 2001. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the March 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: March 2001  
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures  
for Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unempl.	Percent Unempl.	Number Empl.
Ada	175,893	4,587	2.6	171,306
Adams	1,573	205	13.0	1,368
Boise	2,339	113	4.8	2,226
Canyon	67,385	2,974	4.4	64,411
Elmore	9,467	559	5.9	8,908
Gem	6,337	353	5.6	5,984
Owyhee	4,024	163	4.0	3,861
Payette	10,479	778	7.4	9,701
Valley	4,150	308	7.4	3,842
Washington	4,751	386	8.1	4,365
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>673,258</b>	<b>30,899</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>642,359</b>

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* grew by 2,100 between February and March 2001, and grew by 10,400 since March 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 400 jobs over the month. Job gains in *Construction & Mining* (500 jobs) outpaced job losses in *Manufacturing* (100 jobs), with job losses noted in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* (100 jobs), *Other Durable Goods* (100 jobs), and *Food & Kindred Products* (200 jobs). Job gains in *Manufacturing* included *Other Lumber & Wood Products* (100 jobs) and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment &*

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
(Ada and Canyon counties)**

	March 2001*	Feb 2001	March 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	243,300	240,700	230,900	1.1	5.4
Unemployment	7,600	7,200	7,900	5.6	-3.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.0	3.4		
Total Employment	235,700	233,500	223,000	0.9	5.7
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	243,600	240,300	231,300	1.4	5.3
Unemployment	8,200	8,700	8,500	-5.7	-3.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.6	3.7		
Total Employment	235,400	231,600	222,800	1.6	5.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	227,900	225,800	217,500	0.9	4.8
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	52,800	52,400	51,800	0.8	1.9
<b>Mining &amp; Construction</b>	15,600	15,100	15,200	3.3	2.6
<b>Manufacturing</b>	37,200	37,300	36,600	-0.3	1.6
Durable Goods	28,900	28,800	28,200	0.3	2.5
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,100	3,500	3.2	-8.6
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	700	700	1,000	0.0	-30.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,400	2,500	4.2	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	8,100	8,200	7,900	-1.2	2.5
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	12,800	12,600	11,700	1.6	9.4
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	2,000	0.0	-15.0
Other Durable Goods	1,900	2,000	1,900	-5.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,500	8,400	-2.4	-1.2
Food Products	5,400	5,600	5,600	-3.6	-3.6
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	900	0.0	0.0
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	175,100	173,400	165,700	1.0	5.7
<b>Trans, Comm, &amp; Public Util</b>	12,000	12,000	11,700	0.0	2.6
Transportation	6,800	6,800	6,300	0.0	7.9
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,200	5,200	5,400	0.0	-3.7
<b>Trade</b>	57,100	56,800	53,100	0.5	7.5
Wholesale Trade	14,000	14,000	13,200	0.0	6.1
Durable Goods	8,600	8,600	7,900	0.0	8.9
Nondurable Goods	5,400	5,400	5,300	0.0	1.9
Retail Trade	43,100	42,800	39,900	0.7	8.0
General Merchandise Stores	6,000	5,800	4,100	3.4	46.3
Foods Stores	7,700	7,800	7,500	-1.3	2.7
Eating & Drinking Places	14,800	14,400	14,300	2.8	3.5
Other Retail Trade	14,600	14,800	14,000	-1.4	4.3
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate Services</b>	11,000	11,000	11,100	0.0	-0.9
Business Services	60,100	58,900	56,400	2.0	6.6
Health Services	14,900	14,400	14,400	3.5	3.5
Hospitals	17,000	17,100	16,100	-0.6	5.6
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	7,900	7,800	7,300	1.3	8.2
Other Services	4,800	4,700	4,300	2.1	11.6
<b>Government</b>	23,400	22,700	21,600	3.1	8.3
Federal Government	34,900	34,700	33,400	0.6	4.5
Federal Government	4,800	4,900	4,900	-2.0	-2.0
State Government	13,200	13,000	12,400	1.5	6.5
Education	4,600	4,600	4,200	0.0	9.5
Administration	8,600	8,400	8,200	2.4	4.9
Local Government	16,900	16,800	16,100	0.6	5.0
Education	11,300	11,200	10,800	0.9	4.6
Administration	5,600	5,600	5,300	0.0	5.7

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

*Components* (200 jobs). Since March 2000, the only industries that did not experience an increase in the number of jobs were *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* and *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing*; all other *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced a gain over the year. The increase in *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for 19 percent of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* added over the month and 9.6 percent of the jobs created over the year.

*Service-Producing Industries* added 1,700 jobs in the Boise City MSA from February 2001 to March 2001. The only industries that accrued a loss over the month were *Food Stores* (100 jobs), *Health Services* (100 jobs), and *Federal Government* (100 jobs); all other *Service-Producing Industries* gained jobs over the month. The industries that posted the most job gains over the month were *Eating & Drinking Places* (400 jobs), *Business Services* (500 jobs), and *Other Services* (700 jobs). Since March 2000, the only industries that did not experience a gain in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were *Communication & Electricity*, *Gas & Sanitary Services*, and *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate*. The increase in *Service-Producing Industries* accounted for 81 percent of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* added over the month and 90.4 percent of jobs created over the year.

## **SPECIAL TOPIC:**

### **High-Tech Industry Update**

The numbers of persons laid-off from high-tech companies (including temporary workers) has increased to almost 2,000 workers. Companies that have laid-off workers include ZiLOG, Micronpc.com, MCMS, Micron Electronics (MEI), SCP Global Technologies, Jabil Circuit, and Hewlett-Packard. MEI also announced the sale of Micronpc.com to Gores Technology Group, a private Los Angeles company. Gores Technology Group was paid \$70 million by Micron Electronics to take over the company and turn it around. The company has purchased nearly 30 companies or divisions in the past and often resells the companies to bigger players in the market once it has gotten the company back to profitability. MEI is also entitled to profits raised on the sale of the company if Gores sells all or part of Micronpc.com in the next three years. MEI also announced plans to sell its PC and SpecTek divisions and merge with Interland to focus solely on Web-hosting. The merger with Interland is expected to be complete this summer. MEI sold its Host-Pro consumer dial-up Internet accounts to EarthLink, an Atlanta-based Internet service provider. MEI chose to sell its consumer accounts because it no longer fits with the company's focus on Web-hosting solutions for small and medium-sized businesses.

In other high-tech news, Knosys, Inc. changed its name to ProClarity Corp. Company officials announced the name change as a step to align the company closer to its product line. The ProClarity product line was launched in January 1999. ProClarity makes software to

help companies analyze business data that are collected and added to databases, which allows decision-makers to see trends, patterns, and exceptions in large groups of data.

## **AREA DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Boise City MSA**

- Albertson's, Inc. announced Larry Johnston as its new chairman and chief executive officer. Larry Johnston is a former CEO of the Appliance Division of General Electric (GE), and also has expertise in handling mergers and acquisitions.
- Washington Group International, Inc. (WGI) was awarded many contracts in the past few months, including: a \$30 million contract to reconstruct a 22-mile section of State Route 40 in California that should be completed in early 2002; an \$18 million contract to construct improvements to a water-delivery system in Nevada that is scheduled for completion in August; and a contract for an undisclosed amount to provide construction services for the five-year renovation of the Great Falls International Airport.
- Sears Credit has announced plans to hire 400 new workers, an increase of 25 percent of its existing workforce. The new employees will support the growing Sears Card and Sears Gold MasterCard businesses. Wages for online employees start at \$9.50 per hour, management-level positions are also available.
- Home Base, the home-improvement store located at 8363 Franklin Road in the Franklin Towne Plaza, is one of the 26 Home Base stores that will be closing in the next few weeks. In late March, the company announced the 11-week liquidation of products at the store.
- George's Cycles & Fitness opened its new location in April on Front Street across from WinCo in Boise. The new 8,500 square-foot store marked the closure of the store on Broadway Avenue and the store in the Albertson's Marketplace on 17<sup>th</sup> and State Street. The business will keep its store at 5515 West State Street open. The move towards fewer, larger stores will allow the company to offer more products and services to its customers, including laser custom fitting. George's also plans to open a Meridian store in November.
- Sprint PCS recently expanded its digital network to include the Treasure Valley, from Ontario to the east side of Glenns Ferry. The firm also opened its first Treasure Valley retail stores in Meridian and Boise.

- Eagle Nursery is planning to move to the northeast corner of State Street and Park Lane, west of Eagle Road. The Towne and Country Centre—a plaza that will include a WinCo supermarket, a home-improvement store, a gas station, and 11 additional retail outlets and restaurants will be coming soon to Horseshoe Bend Road and State Street, where Eagle Nursery currently resides. This development, and the desire to modernize the nursery, prompted their move.
- D&D Idaho Foods is building a combination KFC and A&W Restaurant in Caldwell at 5102 Cleveland Boulevard, next to WalMart. The 3,500 square-foot restaurant is currently under construction and is scheduled to open June 1. The combined restaurant will be the first in Idaho.
- Many other new businesses opened in recent months in the Treasure Valley, including: Soshea's Café in Caldwell; NAPA Auto Parts and Leavitt & Associates Engineers, both in Nampa; Louie's Pizza & Italian Restaurant, Perfect Image Beauty Supply & Gifts, Smoky Mountain Pizza & Pasta, and Summers Funeral Home, all in Meridian.
- Maverick Country Stores, Inc. has started construction on a new 3,800 square-foot store on the southeast corner of Franklin Boulevard and Karcher Road. Construction and remodeling projects have also started on Ross at Karcher Mall. Ross Dress for Less will be an anchor store on the west end of Karcher Mall and is scheduled to open by August 15. Intermountain Outdoor Sports closed its Karcher Mall location in April due to poor sales and a dispute over the mall lease.
- The West Valley Centre, a new 40,000 square-foot shopping center, started construction on Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard recently. Sears will be the anchor store in the new center, moving from its current location in Karcher Mall. The first 20,000 square-foot section is scheduled for completion by October.
- The corner of Flamingo Avenue and Garrity Boulevard has three new commercial construction projects started or scheduled. Construction has started on the new McDonald's restaurant and Phillips 66 gas station and convenience store, and construction should begin on a new premier office building, North Ridge Professional Center, in June at the same location.
- Canandaigua Wine Co., Inc. acquired Ste. Chapelle Winery in a \$52 million deal with Corus Brands, Inc. (who purchased Ste. Chapelle in 1997) in late March.

Canandaigua is the wine division for Constellation Brands, the second-largest supplier of wine and importer of beer in the United States. The acquisition would allow a larger distribution channel for Ste. Chapelle.

- Planned moves and new business openings in the coming months will include: Desert Sage Restaurant is moving to ParkCenter; Idaho Camera is closing its Overland store in Boise and opening a new store in Nampa; MacKenzie River Pizza and Syringa will open in the Crossroads Plaza in Meridian; World Lighting will open a retail store next to Lowe's in southwest Boise; the Manhattan Grill will open at the Adelman Building in downtown Boise in June; Schott's Steaks & Chops restaurant will open in the Idanha Hotel building in downtown Boise; Red Lobster will close its Capitol Boulevard location and reopen a restaurant in the Boise Towne Plaza in October; and C.J. Banks plans to open a clothing retail store at Boise Towne Square Mall.

### **Adams County**

- The Sawtooth Café reopened in mid-April after a remodel. The restaurant is now larger and brighter; it seats 50 instead of 31. The kitchen was moved farther back and in its place booths and tables were added for customers. Other projects are continuing, but the café is open and the hours have been expanded from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and it is also open for dinner both Friday and Saturday evenings until 9:00 p.m. (10:00 p.m. in the late spring and summer).

### **Boise County**

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort has closed for the season but work has already started on a new electric line that will deliver power to the mountain to add new and faster chairlifts and expand resort operations. The power line is being constructed this summer. Other improvements in the near future include improving lodges and skier services, upgrading the Superior chairlift from a double to a high-speed quad, and building a high-speed quad chairlift—Shafer Butte—up the face of the mountain.

### **Elmore County**

- The Pilot truck stop will reopen on May 14 with an Arby's restaurant that will include a drive-thru, replacing the Great American restaurant. The truck stop has already started the hiring process for 55 jobs that will fill the restaurant, convenience store, and fueling stations. All of the application/job information is available at the Mountain Home Job Service. The grand reopening is scheduled for May 14.

## **Gem County**

- The following business developments occurred in Gem County during the month of April: the Gem County Fair Office recently completed its \$4,800 remodeling project; the Post Office moved recently to its new home on Main Street; and work on the Gem Island Sports Complex is slowing down, with the fields ready for play the first phase of the trail complete.
- A modular jail arrived in Gem County in mid-April. The modular facility will be placed near the existing Gem County Jail and will provide beds for up to 12 minimum-security inmates. The new modular facility should eliminate the need for the county to send inmates to facilities in other counties, saving the county money.

## **Payette County**

- Recent business developments in Payette County include: the grand opening for Pine Pride, a custom furniture company that moved its operation to 34 S. Seventh St. in Payette; the construction of a new greenhouse at Howards Landscape and Nursery in Fruitland began in late March; and a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Farmers and Merchants State Bank site in Fruitland.

## **Valley County**

- In April, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) awarded \$20,000 to the City of McCall for water system planning. The grant will be matched by the city and the total monies will be used to update the city's master water plan and determine cost estimates for future system improvements.
- Declining enrollments in area schools are forcing teacher layoffs in the McCall-Donnelly School District. As many as 14 teachers could be laid-off from the District, and the eliminated positions are based on seniority. The district also decided to close the one-room school in Yellow-Pine for the 2001-02 school year, after enrollment this year fell to only two students.

## **Washington County**

- The Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation received a \$50,000 grant in early April from the R.K. Mellon Family Foundation, to assist in Memorial Hospital's capital equipment campaign. Some of the money was used to purchase a new x-ray film processor. The Radiology Department's previous film processor was about 30 years old and frequently needed repairs.

- Recent business openings and closures in Washington County in the past month include the following: Salomon Smith Barney, a financial consulting firm, opened an office in Weiser and Stark's Eclectic Gifts, located at the corner of State and Idaho Streets in Weiser, is going out of business.

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Jennifer Pirtle, Labor Market Analyst  
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642  
(208) 895-6642  
E-mail: [jpirtle@labor.state.id.us](mailto:jpirtle@labor.state.id.us)